Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes
Canada

NEWS RELEASE

March 15, 1995

CRTC RENEWS QUATRE-SAISONS NETWORK'S LICENCES FOR TWO YEARS

OTTAWA/HULL -- The CRTC today renewed for two years the licences authorizing CFCF Inc. to operate the Quatre-Saisons television network, the originating station CFJP-TV Montreal and its transmitter CJPC-TV Rimouski (Decision CRTC 95-98). This decision follows a CRTC public hearing held in October 1994 in Montreal.

"The CRTC called CFCF to appear at the hearing to show cause why we should not issue an order against it, despite the previous failure of the Quatre-Saisons network to meet its Canadian content obligations," said CRTC Chairman Keith Spicer. "We are satisfied with the broadcaster's explanations, particularly concerning the corrective measures it has taken, and we note its specific commitments for the new licence term."

"While the Commission expects the network to meet its obligations and commitments," Mr. Spicer added, "we will not hesitate to take appropriate action if the network fails again to fulfil them. By renewing CFCF's licences for only two years, the Commission will be able to reassess the licencee's performance at an earlier date. At this time, we will also be considering the licence renewals of most other French-language networks and stations in the province of Quebec."

During the 1992-1993 broadcast year, Canadian programming on the Quatre-Saisons network was about 30 hours less than the minimum 60% required by regulation for overall program hours. The shortfall was blamed on a problem with the computer system used by CFCF to keep track of Canadian programming hours.

In view of the circumstances, the CRTC renewed the broadcaster's licences from September 1, 1995 to August 31, 1997. But as agreed by CFCF at the hearing, the Commission will require CFJP-TV to broadcast at least 60% Canadian content calculated on a six-month basis rather than annually.

The Commission also accepted the following commitments by the Quatre-Saisons network:

- the network will broadcast 12 hours of local news per week, including 6 hours in prime time;
- $100,000 a year will be earmarked for developing drama, variety and children's programs;
- the network will broadcast one daily program for children between the ages of 2 and 11, plus two original, half-hour information productions each week aimed at the 8-11 age group;
- approximately $80,000 a year will be allocated towards improving services for the hearing impaired, with captioned programming increasing from 887 to 912 hours by 1996-1997.

Like other private television broadcasters, CFCF must also adhere to the guidelines of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters regarding TV violence, gender portrayal and advertising to children.

- 30 -

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Copies of today's decision are available through the public examination room at any of the following CRTC offices:

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